

VZCZCXRO0624
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHML #0785 0680837
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 090837Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5612
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 9555
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 3113
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 000785

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/RSP (SHEIVES AND EAP/MTS
USPACOM ALSO FOR FPA HUSO, J5, AND JIACG(WITTMAN)
SECDEF/OSD/ISA/AP (TOOLAN/BAILEY)
JOINT STAFF/J5 (WILKES/ROBINSON/CLEMMONS)
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK FOR TOM DOLAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ARF](#) [EAID](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [RP](#)
SUBJECT: TENTATIVE PHILIPPINE SUPPORT FOR ARF DISASTER
RELIEF EXERCISE

REF: STATE 28052

11. (SBU) Deputy POL/C shared reftel points on March 7 with Department of Foreign Affairs Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Policy Maria Austria and North American Affairs Director Ed De Vega, as well as with Department of National Defense (DND) Assistant Secretary for International Defense and Security Relations Joji Aragon. All three officials informally welcomed the proposal, with Assistant Secretary Aragon noting that the DND would be "very, very

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interested" in pursuing the concept. Although we do not have a formal commitment yet from the Philippines to host the proposed exercise, prospects appear good that it will agree to do so.

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